

A-Planning NATO Units Are Approved

By Don Cook
Los Angeles Times

PARIS, Nov. 27 — Defense ministers of 10 of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization nations reached rapid agreement today on the establishment of new nuclear planning and consultation machinery within the Alliance.

Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara opened the one-day meeting with a rather awesome report, saying that the United States now possesses over 5000 strategic nuclear warheads and maintains in excess of yet another 5000 tactical warheads in depots in Western Europe. The latter are tactical A-bombs, warheads for short-range missiles, nuclear artillery rounds, dem-

See NATO, A17, Col. 5

olition charges and anti-aircraft or antimissile warheads.

This stockpile in Europe, he added, will be increased by another 20 per cent in the next six months.

After this review, the ten ministers — with France notably absent—got down to cases on the problem of improving consultations within NATO on the employment of nuclear power. Several participants called the encounter "very harmonious" and "exceeding expectations."

The ten countries, acting as a special committee within the Alliance — with membership open to any NATO country—set up three special working groups to deal with nuclear planning, data exchange and intelligence, and problems of communication and consultation in a nuclear emergency.

Each committee has a membership of five, with the United States and Britain—the two nuclear powers—sitting on all three. The nuclear planning committee is the most important of the three. Its membership includes West Germany, Italy and Turkey. Thus, Germany gains a certain special status with the nuclear inner circle in Europe.

Other members of the data exchange and intelligence group are Canada, the Netherlands and Denmark. The communication group will include Canada, Belgium and Greece. The full committee of 10 will act as an over-all coordinating body.

In effect, special NATO nuclear machinery is being created in the Alliance without France, alongside the regular military structure that consists of the 14-nation military

staff committee in Washington and the military group of Britain, France and the United States, which also is located in Washington. Norway, Luxembourg, Portugal and Iceland are not now on the committee.

NATO Secretary General

Mario Brosio, who presided at today's meeting, is to make a formal report on the formation of the new groups when the full NATO foreign and defense ministers meeting is held in Paris in two weeks.

NATO sources say that the French, while disapproving

the whole idea of special nuclear consultations, accepted the formation of the committee. However, the French are saying that the new machinery cannot be established without unanimity, and that they have a right to veto the new setup in the full Council.

In the meantime, plans for nuclear weapons-sharing, such as the U.S. multilateral nuclear force or the British allied nuclear force, were scarcely mentioned at today's meeting.